Sex Education in Schools

211. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided not to incorporate sex education in school curriculum;

(b) if so, whether Government intend to educate children on population and reproductive system;

(c) whether the possibility of making sex education in school syllabus after a certain age or introducing "population education" in its place has been examined by Government;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the experience gained by other developed countries regarding access to information on sex in school syllabus and whether that was taken into consideration by Government while arriving at the decision for not incorporating sex education as part of school education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) According to the information furnished by NCERT, they organised a National Seminar on Adolescence Education in 1994 in pursuance of NPE, 1986 (as modified in 1992) which recommended the introduction of "suitable components of adolescence education in the curricula at all stages of schooling". While planning the aforesaid Seminar, the NCERT collected feedback on the experiences of other countries in the area of Sex Education at school level and considered them in formulating recommendations on the framework of Adolescence Education.

Drip Irrigation for Tobacco Crops in Andhra Pradesh

212. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to encourage drip irrigation for tobacco crops in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any district has been selected for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) There is no proposal to encourage drip irrigation for tobacco crops in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Premium on Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme

213. PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Union Government's insistence on subsidising premiums on its "comprehensive crop insurance scheme" has landed it in a soup;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have lost Rs. 5.27 on every rupee it has earned as crop insurance premium in the 1995 Kharif season;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether it is a fact that a more realistic "break even rate" of premiums is being worked out to ensure that claim do not eat into the exchequer; and

(f) if so, the details of the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) No, sir, 50% premia subsidy is extended under the existing Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme to small & marginal

farmers and this premia subsidy is shared equally by Central and participating State Governments.

(c) and (d) Owing to nominal premia rates i.e. 2% for foodgrain crops and 1% for pulses and oilseeds and also due to frequent occurrence of natural calamities, Government is losing Rs. 5.73 on every Rupee of premium earned in kharif 1995 season.

(e) and (f) A Concept Paper containing suggestions for revision of the existing Crop Insurance Scheme has been circulated to all the Members of parliament. After receiving their reactions a formal proposal for revision of the scheme will be initiated.

Guidlincs for production of fertilizers

214. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any guidelines set by Government which the fertilizer companies have to follow while fixing the price of the fertilizers produced by them;

(b) if so, the details of the machinery to check whether the guidelines are being followed or not; and

(c) if not, whether government propose to set any guidelines in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI SISRAM OLA): (a) to (c) At present, urea is the only fertilizer covered by statutory price control. Urea is required to be sold at a uniform price of Rs. 3320 per tonne, excluding local taxes. The enforcement machinery of the State Governments ensures that urea is sold at the Statutory price.

The prices of all other fertilizers have been decontrolled. The Government of India has, however, extended a special concession to the farmers on sale of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers. The State Governments have been requested to ensure that the full benefit of the special concession is passed on to the fanners. With this end in view, the State Governments have to negotiate the prices of these fertilizers with the manufacturers/suppliers concerned.

आन्ध्र प्रदेश में बाढ़

215. प्रो० विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा: क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) आन्ध्र प्रदेश में इस वर्ष भारी वर्षा और बाढ़ से कितने व्यक्तियों की मृत्यु हुई;

(ख) इससे कितनी सम्पत्ति का नुकसान हुआ;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि इस प्रकार की घटनाएं पहले भी कई बार हुई थीं; और

(घ) सरकार द्वारा इस प्रकार की प्राकृतिक आपदाओं से होने वाली जान-माल की हानि को रोकने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं?

कृषि मंत्री (श्री चतुरानन मिश्र) (क) और (ख) आन्ध्र प्रदेश सरकार से प्राप्त सूचना के अनुसार, 1996 के दौरान चक्रवात, भारी वर्षा एवं बाढ़ से 1574 लोगों की मृत्यु हुई है, 7.18 लाख मकानों को नुकसान हुआ है तथा 17.95 लाख हैक्टेयर क्षेत्र की फसलें क्षतिग्रस्त हुई हैं।

(ग) जी हां।

(घ) बंगाल की खाड़ी या अरब सागर में उत्पन्न होने वाले चक्रवातीय तूफानों के पर्यवेक्षण, संसूचन, निरीक्षण एवं उनके आने की पूर्व सूचना एवं आवश्यक चेतावनी जारी करने के उद्देश्य से चक्रवात चेतावनी केन्द्रों का एक नेटवर्क स्थापित किया गया है। दूरस्थ क्षेत्रों के निर्दिष्ट स्थानों तक भी चक्रवात चेतावनी को जल्दी एवं सीधे पहुंचाने के लिए इनसैट उपग्रहों की मदद ली जाती है। आकाशवाणी एवं दूरदर्शन प्रसारण के माध्यम से भी चक्रवात संबंधी चेतावनी दी जाती है। केन्द्रीय जल आयोग राज्य सरकारों के निकट सहयोग से एक बाढ़ चेतावनी प्रणाली का प्रचालन करता है। जान-माल की क्षति को न्यूनतम रखने के लिए राज्य सरकार विभिन्न उपाय करती है। जिसमें संभावित बाढ़ वाले क्षेत्रों से लोगों को हटाया जाना भी शामिल है।